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Memoir

——Of The——

Life, Character and Services

——Of The Late——

COL. R. W. LOUGHERY

"THE FATHER OF TEXAS DEMOCRACY"

The
Well Remembered
Veteran Journalist and Stainless Patriot, Who for Many Years Consecrated His Genius and Best Efforts to the Cause of Democracy and Good Government, the Best Interest of Society and the Building up of the Material Interest of the State of Texas.

PRICE - - - - - - - - $1.00.

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Nacogdoches, Texas:
PLAINDEALER PRINT
June, 1896.

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AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

To the friends of my late husband, Col. R. W. Loughery, I trust this little book will meet with your approval, and kind consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

MRS. E. M. LOUGHERY.

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R. W. LOUGHERY.

It is not the purpose of the author of this brief memoir to write a mere eulogium, but to present an outline of the main incidents in the career of a man who, for many years, was a notable figure upon the scene of action in this state, and whose memory, 'though his form has been consigned to earth, which at last must receive us all, is still revered by many of the older people of this state, who either knew him personally or by reputation.

Calling up the vanished forms and scenes of long ago, and viewing them in the calm after-light of intervening years events, that at the time of their happening, appeared to have no necessary connection with one another, are found to be connected, and the characters, motives and actions of men are more fully understood. While we are subject to misapprehensions with reference to those who surround us in the land of the living, we are enabled, in a measure at least, to construct a connected history and fathom the meaning and estimate the value of a life that has been lived. So-called history is but a part of true history, the skeleton of history, necessary to be clothed with tissue and integument and have a soul breathed into it to be endowed with life, grace and beauty. It is an imperfect statement of general results, so imperfect, in fact, that Napoleon characterized it as a "fable which men have agreed to believe;" it would be more correct and nearer to the truth to say "a misrepresentation of the past." It is a tale, poorly told, made up of parts of many lives. It is im-

possible to over-estimate the value of the individual life. If there were more real biography there would be more real history. And when we speak of history, it is well to reflect and ask ourselves "what is the utility of history?" There is certainly little value to be derived from an accurate knowledge of the dates of the happening of events, such as battles, accession of kings to thrones, rise and fall of empires, establishment and downfall of republics and the like, or, even the discovery of inventions or the passage of laws; for, are we not now in the full enjoyment of all that has grown out of the past, from the time of the first faint flutterings of life in laurentian seas down to the splendid civilization of to day, which satisfies our needs. The office of history is not merely to inform us of what has happened nor why it has happened, but to bequeath to us that wisdom which is to be gathered alone from the dust of age that wisdom which will teach men and nations how to avoid mistakes, and live nobly; to catch up the threads that lead through the labyrinth and advance along paths that lead to the highest good; to instruct the individual soul, in order that, according to its capacity, it may best perform its part in this world and fit itself for whatever better destiny it is, by its inherent composition, capable of attaining under the general plan of being. This office of history, of which I speak, is mainly to be accomplished through biography, and that part of biography which treats of motive and character.

No man who has ever walked upon this earth has been free from imperfections, there have been none who have escaped errors, both of act and judgment, and the subject of this memoir, Col. R. W. Loughery, was not an exception to the general rule, but "e'en the faults he had leaned to vir-

tue's side." He was slow to think evil of others, that he was easily deceived—to the final loss of a competency which he had acquired by years of unremitting labor; a loss that befell him when the heyday of manhood was past and old age was at hand. He was so unselfish, that he to too great an extent subordinated his interests to those of others, and failed to ask for, and often refused to accept, the rewards that his services had richly earned, and that, at the time, would have been freely accorded him, but which later, when he greatly needed substantial recognition by his party, was denied him under a system of politics that leads those in power to bestow their favors not as rewards of merit, but with an eye-single to personal aggrandizement—to prefer an obscure cross-roads politician who can command ONE VOTE in the state convention, to an old veteran, who has grown gray in the service of his country. He saved the frail barques of many politicians from disaster. He built up the political fortunes of several men who have since held high positions in the councils of the nation, but sought no honors for himself, when (for instance, within a few years after the overthrow of the Military Commission at Jefferson) he could have secured any office within the gift of the people of Texas.

Such, and such only, were his faults—they were a part of his mental and spiritual composition, and bore fruit that, while it did not embitter (for nothing could embitter) but saddened the later years of his life, until at last he sunk into the welcome grave, a portal which led him, it is to be hoped, to a region of happiness and rest.

If these were his faults, what were his virtues?

He was ambitious, not to secure political preferment, social position, influence or other reward, or to gratify per-

sonal vanity by being, and parading the fact that he was, patriotic, true, honorable, pious, kindly, generous and charitable; but ambitious alone to possess, cultivate and practice those virtues. The pathetic appealed to him as it does to few men. He wept with those who mourned and rejoiced with those who rejoiced. He was above all petty jealousy. He not only saw but applauded the merits of others, and cheered them on in efforts that led to distinction. He never permitted a case of suffering to go unrelieved that it was in his power to relieve, and he never turned a tramp or other beggar from his door. When the world cried, "Crucify!" he was ever found on the side of mercy. He never deserted his friends, but was quick to fly to their defence when they appealed to him, or when he saw that they needed his aid, and as a result, there are thousands who remember him and sincerely mourn his loss. He never failed to inspire the respect even of his political enemies. He had the rare faculty of doing the right thing at the right time, and was a consummate master of the higher tactics of political warfare. He was an indomitable and trusted defender of right, and never failed to be the first to throw himself squarely into the breach in time of public danger. He was physically and morally intrepid. He was quick to espouse every worthy cause, and advocate it with might and main. He was not only kind and benevolent to men and women, both great and small, rich and poor, black and white; but, to God's creatures, the lower animals, not one of whom he ever injured, or permitted to be injured in his presence, without reproof. He turned, instinctively, to the defence of the weak and defenceless. He never did an intentional wrong, and never committed a wrong unintentionally or through error arising from mis-

take of judgment or a misrepresentation of facts that he did not sorely repent, and immediately seek to atone for. He never sacrificed principle for expediency.

It may be said truthfully of him that he was the "Father of Texas Democracy." When he established his newspaper at Marshall in 1849 (three years after Texas was admitted to the Union) the two great parties in the United States (Whigs and Democrats) had no representative local organizations in Texas. Seeing the confusion that prevailed and deprecating the practice of conducting campaigns merely on personal and local issues, he, for six years, zealously taught, through the columns of his paper, the tenets of Democratic faith, as to which there were many misconceptions (men running for office who claimed to be Democrats, and who did not understand nor believe in the first principles of Democracy) and sought to bring about party alignments, which he at last succeeded in doing, as the state convention of 1855 was the result of his labors and the labor of those who aided him in his work. While he believed that concerted action in political matters, which can alone be secured through perfect party organizations, he was of too manly and independent a spirit and too clear-headed and wise a man to erect a party into a fetisch, to be bowed down before and worshipped with the blind and senseless adoration that the African bestows upon a stick wrapped with colored yarn and tipped with feathers, or other object that he invests with occult and omnipotent powers. He did not hesitate to criticise platforms, candidates and officials—from the highest to the lowest—when he deemed such critism necessary to the good of the country or party. He believed in the great cardinal principles upon which his school of political economy rests.

If party leaders violated those principles he sought, as far as his influence extended, to whip them back into line. If his views upon public questions were not accepted and enunciated in the platform utterances of his party, he did not cease to advocate their adoption, neither did he quit the party, for, with the author of Lacon, he believed "that the violation of correct principles offers no excuse for their abandonment," and was sure that the Democratic masses would in time force their leaders, so-called (the most subservent of followers, with few exceptions) to adopt the correct course and retrace the false and dangerous steps that were being taken. He believed that if the principles enunciated by Mr. Jefferson, Calhoun and their associates were practically applied to the administration of our National and State affairs, we would have one of the most enduring, freest and happiest governments that it is possible for human genius to construct, and human patriotism and wisdom to sustain. Party, with him, was merely a necessary means to a desirable end—good government and constitutional integrity and freedom—and he combated every movement, utterance, or nomination that promised to impair its strength or usefulness. Election to the office of president or governor (let the man be Whig, Democrat or Republican, and no matter what past service he had performed) did not cloth the individual so elected, to his way of thinking, with any of the divine attributes formerly ascribed to kings, and he did not hesitate to speak out (or rather, write, for he was no speaker) plainly, when he thought it necessary to do so. If a mistake was made by such men, he was determined that they should be warned both of the fact and its necessary consequences, and should be made to shoulder the entire responsibility, and not be permitted to saddle it off on the party.

It is getting to be the fashion now to cry "Treason!" if the wisdom of the acts of a high public official are brought in question, or his utterances assailed by members of the party to which he belongs, and which elected him to the position. Unless the common sense of the people asserts itself speedily the servants will become the masters of the people, and a general spirit of cowardise will result in such gross blunders as to lead to the disintergration of the party. He was quick to pardon a private fault and forgive and forget a personal grievance; but woe to the man who usurped authority, made power the instrument of injustice, or betrayed a public trust, for he might expect the scorpion lash. He believed in bowing to the will of the majority to this extent: If it was a majority secured at the polls against a course he believed in, until he and his co-laborers could win a majority of suffragans to their side and reverse the result; if of his party, in opposition to his views, until he could win enough of his fellow members to his way of thinking to secure such party utterances or action as he desired, or until he became convinced that he was in error; but he WOULD NOT bow slavishly and say that wrong was right upon the mere ipse dixti of any majority, nor would he relax his efforts in the defense of his opinions. He would frankly say that he believed the party to have acted unwisely, but that he intended to remain with it and support its nominees, because he knew that it offered the only secure hope for the maintenance of good government in this country, and would learn from experience, and rectify the mistake into which it had fallen. He was devoted to the Democratic flag, with a devotion akin to that which a veteran feels for the colors of his regiment, which he has followed through baptism after baptism of fire to victory.

He entertained no superstitious reverence for majorities, nor did he believe that the time had yet come when they were invested with the attributes of infallibility. On the contrary he knew that they were often wrong, and in time past had long stifled truth, persecuted innocence, opposed human advancement in every department of knowledge, and inflicted much cruel injustice—had forced Gallileo to swear that an immutable truth was a lie, had burned Cervitus at the stake, kept the fagot-fires of persecution ablaze at Smithfield and Oxford, and condemned Christ to an ignominious death upon the cross. He knew the minorities had opposed all these foolish and evil acts, and that the minorities had grown to be the majorities upon which our present civilization rests securely. He believed that it was the duty of a minority that felt itself in the right, to persevere against all obstacles to the achievement of final success, and that if this were not so, there would be an end of progress, as the expressed will of the first majority secured would have all the binding force of an edict flowing from an infallible source. He was charitable, not merely in word and deed, but in thought as well. Nothing pained him more than to be compelled to listen to words of detraction, and under no circumstances would he repeat them. He was a bold, aggressive personality—made to lead in times of storm and struggle.

Comparatively early in his career it was charged that Hon. Lewis T. Wigfall wrote the editorials for the Texas Republican, but this piece of malicious whispering was soon forever silenced, as he and Wigfall became engaged in a newspaper controversy, in which Wigfall was placed hors de combat. Col. Loughery was a devoted husband and father.

He was born in Nashville, Tennessee, February 2, 1820, and was educated at St. Joseph's College at Bardstown, Kentucky, to which place his parents, Robert and Sarah Ann Loughery (From the North of Ireland) removed during his infancy. At ten years of age he was left an orphan and not long after entered a printing office where he learned the trade.

News of the revolution in progress in Texas—the massacres at the Alamo and Goliad and the victory won at the battle of San Jacinto—fired him with a desire to join the patriot army and strike a blow for liberty and, although but sixteen year of age, he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and there joined a military company and started with it for Texas. A frail, delicate lad, he was taken sick en route to New Orleans and was left in that city, where he remained a year and a half, and then went to Monroe, Louisiana, where he remained until 1846, part of the time conducting an influential newspaper, and then again went to New Orleans. In 1847 he removed to Texas and during that year edited a paper at Jefferson. He spent 1848 in travelling over the state, often traversing solitudes of forest and prairie for days together. He said in after life that some of the most pleasant hours that he had ever spent were in the wilderness in silent and solitary meditation as he rode along, far from the haunts of men.

In May 1849 he and Judge Trenton J. Patile established the Texas Republican at Marshall, one of the most famous newspapers ever published in Texas, and certainly the most widely influential and by far the ablest conducted in the state before the war. The paper was named The Texas Republican in honor of the party which advocated the adoption of the American constitution. Judge Patile sold

his interest to his son, Mr. Frank Patilo, in 1850 and in 1851 Col. Loughery obtained sole control of the paper by purchase, and conducted it alone until August, 1869. The files of The Texas Republican were purchased a few years since by the State of Texas and are now preserved in the archeaives of the state department of Insurance, Statistics and History. Before the war this paper was the recognized organ of the democratic party in Texas. It led the host in every contest. The fiery know-nothing campaign of 1855 gave full scope for the exercise of his varied abilities. The Know-Nothing party was a secret oath-bound, organization, hostile to catholicism and opposed to immigrants from foregin lands acquiring right of citizenship in this country. Largely, if not mainly, through the efforts of Col. Loughery, a Democratic State Convention was called (the first in the state) assembled, nominated candidates for state offices, and drew the Democracy up in regular array to contest the state with the opposition. To him, the methods and tenents of the Know-Nothing party were entirely obnoxious. While necessity might be plead for the formation and maintenance of secret, oath-bound, political associations in such a country as Russia, no excuse, he declared, could be offered for their existence here. In his opinion they were foregin to the genius of our institution and a menace to individual and popular liberty. As to religion, Catholic or other, he contended that every man should have the right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. That this right should be protected and that the state had nothing to do with religion or with other matters purely of conscience. As to restrictions upon men of foregin birth being accorded the rights of citizenship, he reminded the people that our fore-

fathers, themselves, had originally come from Europe, that Lafayette and others had crossed the ocean to aid the colonists in the revolution of 1776, that thousand of foregin birth had done valient service in the war of 1812 and in the Texas revolution and that throughout the land the foregin element furnished examples of citizenship that were unexceptionable. He took the position that men who left home and all its endearments and the land where they were born, hallowed as it was by the traditions and acheivements of their race, to cross the seas in search of wider liberty and better orportunities among a people to whose very language they were strangers, were made of such principles as should be invited rather than repelled as immigrants. His was not the spirit of the cormorant who desires all for self, but that better spirit that led the founders of the republic to boast that they had established an asylum to which, through all future time, the oppressed and down-troden might flee with the certainty of receiving protection being accorded the rights of free men. The following incident is illustrative of the temper of the times. Hon. Pendleton Murrah, afterwards governor of the state, was a candidates for Congress and opened his campaign at Marshall. It was impossible to estimate the strength of the Know-Nothing party, as all its proceedings were held in secret. This strength was greatly under estimated by Murrah and his friends. They believd that the excitement was of an ephemeral character and was confined to a few individuals who hoped to secure office by playing the roles of political agitators. Mr. Murrah assailed the leaders and principles of Know-Nothingism with all the vigor and venon of which he was capable (and he was capable of great deal in that, as well as other, directions) hoping to

give the American party, so far as his district was concerned, its Coup de grace. One of the leading citizens of the county arose and declared that the gentleman who composed the American party had been insulted, and called upon all members the party to follow him from the court room. There was a moment of breathless expectation, succeeded by the audience arising, well-nigh en masse and moving toward the door. Soon Mr. Murrah and two or three friends alone remained. They were dumbfounded. The scene they had witnessed was a revelation. They realized that there was no hope of Democratic success in the district and that the Know-Nothing party would sweep it. Mr. Murrah declared his intention to at once withdraw from the race. At this moment Col. Loughery stepped up to him and urged him to continue the campaign and that with increased vigor, saying, among other things. "If you retire now in the face of the enemy, your political career will end today. Although defeat is certain, stand up and fight, and when the Know-Nothing party is condemned by the sober second-thought of the people, you will be remembered and honored." Mr. Murrah followed Col. Loughery's advice and was afterwards elected Governer. The campaign waxed hotter and hotter. The Texas Republican's phillipics, many of which were unsurpassed by any written by the author of junius or uttered by Sheridan or Burke, fell thicker and faster and party speakers flew swiftly from point to point harranguing the multitude, sometimes alone but more often in fierce joint-debate. At last came the fateful day of election, a day of doom for the Know-Nothing party (but not of its spirit, for that is still alive) and of victory to the Democracy.

The next momentous epoch in the history of Col. Loughery was that marked by the secession movement. As to the right of revolution, it is necessarily inherent in every people. The time when it shall be exercised rests alone in their discretion. The right of secession was of an entirely different nature. It was in the nature of that right which a party claims when he withdraws from a contract, the terms of which have been violated or the consideration for which has been withdrawn, and identical with that with which nations who are parties to a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive reserve to themselves (although the compact may in its terms provide for a perpetual union) to consider the treaty annulled when its terms are departed from or the connection no longer continues to be pleasant or profitable. Withdrawal may, or may not, give offense and lead to a declaration of war. If it does lead to hostilities, the resulting struggle is one carried on by equals in which heavy artillery and big batallions will settle the fate of the quarrel. The question of moral right must be left to the decision of the public conscience of the world, or, if that conscience fails to asssert itself at the time, to posterity and the impartial historians of a later period. At one time in the history of the English race, the trial by battle was a part of legal procedure by which issues, both civil and criminal, were judicially determined. The plaintiff, or accuser, preferred his charge and the defendant made answer by denial and challenging the opposing party to a single cambat, calling upon God as he did so, to defend the right. A day and place were thereupon fixed for the trial and, after many solemnities, such as swearing of oaths, kissing of Bibles etc., the command was given "Let the combatants go!" and the latter advanced,

attacked each other and fought until one could fight no longer. At the conclusion of this struggle, which always took place in the presence of judges and a large concourse of people, the victor was declared to have established his claim, or innocence as the case might be, and accorded, if he desired it, something in the nature of a formal triumph, being escorted back to town by the multitude amid sounding huzzahs and other demonstrations of popular approval and sympathy. But in course of time men came to see that skill, strengtn and courage were the sole factors that controlled the issue of such contests and that wrong was as often successful as right. As a consequence the trial by battle fell gradually into disuse and at last became extinct and is now only remembered as a curious custom incident to the evolution of our system of juris-prudence. What has been said of the trial by battle may be said with equal truth of war, and the fate of war. The fact that the southern states were defeated, consequently, has no bearing upon the question of their right to secede. The American union was originally formed by independent sovereignties that bound themselves together to secure certain benefits and to remain so associated so long as the connection proved desirable. Such was the theory, in part, held by Col. Loughery and others who advocated secession. He believed that every essential guarantee contained in the written compact, or contract, of union had been grossly violated and that the southern states could no longer either expect peace or security to their rights, or any benefit whatever by continueing under the same governmental-roof with the states north of Mason and Dixon's line. He was in favor of a peaceful withdrawal, if possible. He thought it was better for the states of the two sections to live apart, as they had no in-

terests in common. Therefore he supported the secession movement. If the southern states had been allowed to peacefully withdraw from the union there would have been no war. It has been said that the war was unavoidable. That is untrue, for it could have been avoided in this way and the responsibility for the blood that was shed does not lie at the door of the southern states. As a matter of fact the hand of providence seems to have guided the course of events. Questions were settled by the war that could have been settled in no other way, better conditions were inaugurated that could have been inaugurated in no other way, misconceptions and animosities were obliterated that could have been obliterated in no other way, mutual respect and confidence were inspired that could have been inspired in no other way, and a truly fraternal and undestructible Union established that could have been established in no other way, a Union to which all the people of all the states are deeply attached. During the progress of the war Col. Loughery opposed the passage of the conscript laws and the invasion of the jurisdiction of civil authority by military commanders. With all his powers of persuation he sought to keep up the waning hopes of the people as the months passed on into years and the Confederacy, like the tower Ushur, darkly nodded to its fall. Knowing that many of the families of Confederate soldiers then in the field were in need, he inaugurated a movement that resulted in a mass meeting at the Court House in Marshall, Texas, at which a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions of money and provisions for the establishment of a depot-of-supplies, at which such families could obtain what they needed. He continued to publish his paper throughout the war, never missing an issue. The final result of the struggle did not

unnerve him as it did many other public men, some of whom among the number the brilliant and lamented Pendleton Murrah, fled the country to find graves in alien lands. Those were dark day that followed the surrender, and the establishment of military rule. Some of those who boasted that they would submit to no indignities, not only timely submitted but went entirely over to the Radicals, accepted office under them and seemed to delight in oppressing a defenseless people. This class found no mercy at the hands of Col. Loughery. His course was characterized by eminent good sense and was remarkable for its fearlessness. Owing to the stand that he took the iniquities that were perpetrated fell far short in atrocity to what they would otherwise have done, as he unhesitatingly not only ventilated, but denounced what was going on and his papers found their way to Washington.

In April, 1857, he started the Jefferson Times (daily and weekly) and ran it in connection with his paper at Marshall.

At this time a complete system of oppression and tyranny prevailed. An army of thieves were sent into the country, ostensibly to protect the negroes and to hunt up Confederate cotton and other alleged Confederate property. The Freedmen's Bureau had its agents in every county. The jails were full of respectable people, charged with disloyalty or alleged crimes, on the complaints of mean whites or depraved negroes. Five military despotisms prevailed in the south. Governors were deposed, legislatures dispersed at the point of the bayonet and citizens disfranchised. The press was silenced and men were afraid to talk, but in many places they became bolder, until they did not see actual danger.

Such was the case in Jefferson, in 1869, when a number of outraged citizens broke into the jail and shot to death a man named Smith, (who had often threatened to have the town burned) and three negroes. These killings inflamed the Radicals. They cared nothing about Smith, whose conduct was about as offensive to them as to the people, but they seemed to rejoice at the opportunity this incident afforded to oppress a people that they hated. Col. Loughery, with both papers, attacked the military organization and the military commission appointed to try these men and others incarcerated at Jefferson, charged with alleged crime. The commission prevailed for over six months, and with it a reign of terror. Men talked in bated whispers. A large number of men left the country to escape persecution. A stockade was erected on the west side of town, in which were imprisoned over fifty persons. Martial law prevailed, the writ of habeas corpus was suspended, and men were tried by army officers in time of profound peace, in plain, open, violation of the constitution. His position during this period was one of great peril, as he reported the proceedings of, and boldly assailed, the commission and its acts from day to day. His life was more than once secretly attempted, and a Federal Colonel was finally selected to chastize him publicly. Col. Loughery gave the fellow a sound beating, however, and the crestfallen officer was arrested, carried before a Republican mayor and fined, and subsequently transferred by his superior officers to another department.

Col. Loughery's able and intrepid course resulted in the downfall of the commission, prevented the arrest of many persons, and the commission of many outrageous acts that otherwise would have been committed, and pre-

served the lives and liberties of many of those confined in the stockade. With him at the head of the Times, the military authorities were compelled to restrain themselves, and think well before they acted. They ordered him several times to cease his strictures, but in each instance he sent back a bold defiance, and the following morning the Times appeared with editorials in keeping with those of former issues. He had three newspaper plants and all of his files destroyed by fire in Jefferson, but notwithstanding these great losses and heavy expense attendant upon the publication of a daily newspaper in those days, he conducted the Times until ———, after which time he published and edited papers at Galveston and Jefferson, Texas, and Shreveport, Louisiana, and from 1877 until 1880, edited the Marshall Herald, at Marshall, Texas, published by Mr. Howard Hamments. Some of the best work that he ever did was on the Herald. There was scarcely a paper in the state that did not quote from the Herald's editorial columns, and the editors of the state, as if by common consent, united in referring to him on all occasions as the "Nestor of the Texas Press."

"From a very early period Col. Loughery strongly advocated the building of a Trans-Continental railway through Texas to the Pacific ocean, and while in New Orleans on one occasion was employed by Col. Faulk, the original projector of the Texas and Pacific railway, to write a series of articles for the Picayune in defense of the corporation which Col. Faulk had then recently formed. Later he became one of the stock holders and directors of the corporation. Throughout his life he felt an interest in the fortunes of the Texas and Pacific, and remained an earnest advocate of railway construction. Every worthy enterprise found in him a staunch and zealous supporter."

In 1887 he was appointed by President Cleveland consul for the United States at Acapulco, Mexico, and held the office until December 1st, 1890, making one of the best officers in the foreign service. He was often commended by the state department, and his reports were copied by the leading commercial papers in Europe and America.

Consuls are as a rule, able men, conscientious in the discharge of their duties, and fully the equals of their brothers of the service in either Europe, Asia or Africa. Their duties are of vast importance to this country, and necessarily more commercial than diplomatic. Consuls should have, though, more than a smattering of international rights and duties.

When they have to temporarily assume the duties of an United States Minister, and see to it that the lives and property of his compatriots are not imperilled, and that the honor of the flag is maintained. The consul has to be acquainted with shipping laws, and have a more or less judicial ability in the settling of disputes between captains and seamen, and between foreign port officials, and our merchant marine, when they arise. He has to certify to consular invoices, and be conversant with the values of exports and imports, so that no clash shall occur between the custom authorities and importers at home. Further, and above all, the consul has to carefully watch foreign traders, the manufactures and industries of the country where he is accredited, and condense in readable reports what he observes that should interest the exporters and importers of the United States.

Now, all this requires experience and a long head. A man should not be chosen for such work whose only prerecquisite is, that he is a good politician or "spell-binder."

Such can be used elsewhere as their party may determine, but certainly not in the consular office.

Col. Loughery was undoubtedly one of the finest writers and clearest thinkers that the south has ever produced, and deserves to rank with Ritchie, Kendall and Prentiss. It has been said that journalism has greatly improved in recent years. This is true with regard to the gathering and dissemination of news, but not true in any other particular.

He had many loving friends and thousands who admired his character and respected his services, yet remain, and for them this imperfect memoir is prepared. He is well remembered by the public men in Texas who began their career shortly after the war and still continue in politics. For many of them he entertained a warm personal friendship until his dying day.

Noble soul, what now to thee are the things of this transitory world, whose succeeding generations are as shadows that swiftly pass across the dial-plate of time and come no more.

THE PRESS.

As an evidence of the esteem in which Col. Loughery was regarded by the editorial fraternity and other friends. I reproduce a few of the many notices of him in times past:

Col. R. W. Loughery, the pioneer editor of the state, and the reliable old war-horse, who stood as a wall between our people and the vandals duridg the days of reconstruction, is spoken of in connection with the office of Commissioner of Insurance, Statistics and History, and we shall be glad indeed, if he receives the appointment. His qualifications are second to those of no man in Texas; and, further, he deserves the place—in fact, he can hardly be repaid for the valiant services he has rendered the people of Texas during the many years he has labored for their benefit. We trust there will not be a moment's hesitation about his appointment.—Paris North Texan.

Another says: "We are informed that Gov. Ireland will be strongly urged to appoint Col. R. W. Loughery of Jefferson, Texas, to the position of Commissioner of Insurance, Statistics and History of Texas.

"This would be a most fitting thing to do. Why?

"First, because his long residence in Texas, his education, training and habits eminently fit and qualify him for the satisfactory discharge of the duties of the position.

"Second, he has been a citizen of the state for forty years past, and no man in it is better acquainted with its progress, history, climate, productions and mineral wealth.

"Third, during all these forty years, he has been a consistent, outspoken, aggressive Democrat, and has never

asked for or held a position at the hands of the Democratic party.

"Fourth, no member of the press of Texas, so far as we are advised, has ever occupied a position under any Democratic administration, and it is high time now that its merits and great services to the party and the state should be recognized.

"Fifth, Col. Loughery has spent the best years of his life in the service of Texas and the Democratic party, and now that he is growing old and is financially depressed, it would be a fitting thing for a Democratic administration to do to recognize his great services, and appoint him to the position for which his many friends throughout the state are pressing his claims, and we with them, join in the request to Gov. Ireland to give the old veteran this position, and in doing so, we feel sure he will serve the best interests of the state, and will show a proper appreciation of the great services of the press to the state and the Democratic party.

"We hope to see every Democratic newspaper in Texas espouse Col. Loughery's cause and press his claims for this appointment."

Gov. Ireland is being strongly urged by many of the best Democrats in the state to appoint Col. R. W. Loughery of Jefferson, Texas, to the office of Commissioner of Insurance, Statistics and History, which he is so well qualified to fill, and it is believed the Governor will comply with their wishes. The press has never had anything, and it is time its claims upon Democratic administrations were being recognized.—Herald.

The Tyler Democrat, in alluding to this matter, says: "We understand that our old friend, Col. R. W. Loughery, of Jefferson—that staunch old Democrat and veteran of the Texas press—will probably be an applicant for appointment to the position of Commissioner of Insurance, Statistics and History. For the discharge of the duties of such a position his education, training and habits eminently fit him; and we feel that his long and honest service for the Democracy of Texas will make such an appeal for him to the incoming Democratic administration as few men could make. We are certain that Gov. Ireland could not do better service to the state, or more suitably begin his appointments, than by placing Col. Loughery in this position, and we hope he will do so."

Another joins on the large list with the following: "Col. R. W. Loughery of Jefferson, for upwards of thirty-six years connected with the press of Texas, most of the time as an editor, is suggested as a suitable man for the important position of Commissioner of Insurance, Statistics and History. Col. Loughery is heartily recommended by the democratic press of the state, and justly so we think. His long experience in the editorial chair and his familiarity with Texas history qualify him especially for the statistical and historical part of his duty. He has labored long and faithfully for the interests of Texas with, if we are correctly informed, but little pecuniary reward. He has been a life-long and consistent democrat, laboring for the interests of the party in season and out of season. Without presuming to advise Gov. Ireland, we think that a more fitting and better man for the position cannot be found in the state than Col. Loughery. His brethren of the press would be pleased to see him nominated."

The Jefferson Jimp, referring to Col. R. W. Loughery's candidacy for the position of Commissioner of Insurance and Statistics, says there is no man better qualified for the place, and certainly none who have served longer or more faithfully the Democratic party. Parties, like republics, are ungrateful. Col. Loughery has worked honestly and faithfully in the interests of the people of Texas and the Democratic party for upwards of one-third of a century, and to-day he has nothing to show for his devotion, except the consciousness of having done right. We hope that Judge Ireland will give him the position he seeks.—Brenham Banner.

The Marshall Herald advocates with much earnestness the claims of Col. R. W. Loughery of Jefferson, for appointment to the position of Commissioner of Insurance, History and Statistics. Our contemporary thinks the profession of journalism ought to furnish the incumbent of this office, and after paying a high and merited tribute to the ability and public services of Col. Loughery, and giving good reasons for the faith that is in it, and says:

"In looking over the field of journalism for such a man, the Herald presents the name of Col. R. W. Loughery for the position. We learn from his friends that he has made an application to Hon. John Ireland, governor elect, for the position of Commissioner of Insurance, Statistics and History. An opportunity is now offered to a governor of Texas to recognize the ability, devotion and fidelity of the press to the best interests of the state. The appointment of Col. Loughery will not only be a fitting recognition of his ability and eminent public services to the state and the Democratic party, as a journalist, but will be accepted by the editorial fraternity as a compliment to them."—Greenville Herald.

The Winsboro Sentinel copies Herald article and adds: "Knowing the fitness of Col. Loughery for the position as well as his unquestioned devotion to Texas and especially to the democratic party, the Sentinel heartily concurs in the sentiments expressed by the Herald. Col. L's long residence in the state and his familiarity with the past as well as the present history of Texas, his fidelity to every trust and devotion to principle, render him amply meritorious of the favor thus asked for by the press of Texas, and we hope that Gov. Ireland will make the appointment."

The Dallas Times repeats the general expression of the democratic papers of Northern Texas in this: "Colonel Loughery, of Jefferson, is spoken of as a man who would be acceptable to the people as their commissioner of insurance and statistics under the incoming democratic administration. He is the man to fill it with credit to the state. He is the man who needs it. He is a Texan whom the people have always admired for his integrity, his probity, his great interest in and knowledge of the state. He is a democrat who has never "weakened," and never forgotten his party and the people's interest. If Judge Ireland appoints him to the position Judge Ireland will receive the applause of all who are acquainted with the worthiness and ability of Colonel Loughery to fill the place."

In May, 1872, Col. Loughery was commissioned counsel at Acapuleo, Mexico, and at once assumed the duties of his office. In that city he found a strong prejudice existing against Americans and particularly against Texas, the heritage of a bloody war and his successors in office. His genality of manner, kind, courteous and business like man-

ner soon swept this away, and he succeeded in supplanting the strong anti-American sentiment with admiration and respect for America and Americans as strong. By untiring efforts he succeeded in giving his government far more information than it had ever before been able to obtain from this portion of the Mexican republic. In fact, when he was recalled at the expiration of President Cleveland's first term the relations between the United States and this important port and coaling station were in every way pleasant and the business of the consulate was in better condition than ever before."

It is now definately known that our townsman, Col. R. W. Loughery, the Nestor of the Texas press, has been appointed American Consel at Acapulco, Mexico. Col. Loughery's reputation as an able and fearless editor, as an honest and faithful Democrat, is beyond question and nothing we might write could possibly add to his well earned and well deserved reputation. If Col. Loughery had done nothing more, his heroic, but perilous fight with the military in the days of reconstruction, when Jefferson was a military inquisition, and the man who opposed it imperiled both life and liberty, he would deserve the highest praise. As a staunch, tried and true Democrat of the Jeffersonian school, Col. Loughery is the peer of any and deserves liberal recognition from the party. Texas owes him a large debt of gratitude and liberal material recognition for the work he has done in shaping her political fortunes when it cost much in peril and sacrifice to defend her rights and autonomy against the combined power of Federal authority and hireling satraps. As a writer Col. Loughery is clear, decisive, strong and few men are better posted in the political

history of our national and southern state politics, and few, if any are better able to defend a democratic administration. As a consular representative of our country in Acapulco, Mexico, he will bring to his duties a mind well cultivated and a large experience in the duties of American citizenship and an accurate knowledge of the history of our government. The Colonel will wield a pen able and ready for any emergency in peace or war—a damascus blade that has never yet been sheathed in the presence of an enemy. —Marshall Messenger.

The death of Col. Loughery at Marshall April the 26th, 1894, was received here with deep regret and profound sorrow, and a pall of gloom hangs over his old home and around the scenes of his glorious works and accomplishments during the dark days of reconstruction. During those trying times he stood as a champion of civil liberty, and boldly defended the rights of the people against usurpation of the powers that were imposing a tyranny and rule that was abhorred by the civilized world. The military commission organized in a time of profound peace, and its inhuman practices, is a stigma upon the dominant party and a disgrace to the power that authorized and sanctioned its outrages. Every means to degrade and oppress the people was organized and ran in conflict and opposition to the law and order that the best element here was anxious to prevail. A reign of terror was imposed, and our innocent people were incarcerated in a bastile, and fired by a mock tribunal for crimes they never committed, to gratify a petty tyranny born and nutured in partisan spirit and sectional hatred. At the beginning of this stormy period Col. Loughery came to the rescue and nobly and gallantly wielded the pen and

fought for principles and justice and boldly enunciated a law and rule to restore common rights and liberty, that the existing marshal law had stultified and sat upon with impunity. A desired effect was at last attained, and the commission was desolved, and the civil law was permitted to assume its righttul functions, and acknowledged superior to the military. They gratitude for his efforts along this perilous line is a silent but eloquent tribute to the memory of Col. Loughery. He has gone to his reward, and we join the craft in sincere sorrw, and mourn in common with the family of our esteemed old friend.—Jefferson Jimplicute.

SALEM ALEIKUM.

Peace be to thy sacred dust,
Cares of earth are ended!
Through life's long and weary day,
Grief and joy was blended.

Blessed is that perfect rest,
Free from pain and sorrow.
Death's dark night, alone can bring,
Sleep with no sad morrow.

Memory's holy censer yields
Fragrance sweet, forever.
Home holds ties, to loving hearts,
Parting can not sever.

Kindly words and noble deeds
Give thy life its beauty.
Brave and patient to the last,
Faithful to each duty.

True as steel to every trust.
Thy aims were selfish never,
Good deeds live when thou art gone,
Thy light shines brighter ever.

Good fight fought, and life work o'er,
Friends and loved ones round thee,
Garnered like the full ripe ear,
Length of days had crowned thee.

L. of C.

Slowly faded like a leaf,
Natural is thy slumber.
Thou livest yet in many hearts,
Thy friends no one can number.

Good night, father, last farewell!
Never we'll behold thee.
May the sod rest light on thee,
Gently earth enfold thee.

"Pax vobiscum," (solemn words),
Sadly death bereft us.
Lonely is the hearth and home,
Father, since you left us.

Sheaves of love and peace are thine,
No wrong thou didst to any.
May thy lifes pure earnest zeal
Strength impart to many.

—FANNIE L.

THE LATE COL. R. W. LOUGHERY. "THE FATHER OF TEXAS DEMOCRACY".

At the request of a number of his friends, who desire to possess some authentic memorial concerning him, the widow of this well remembered veteran journalist and stainless patriot, who for many years consecrated his genius and best efforts to the cause of Democracy and good governments, the best interests of society and the building up of the material interests of the state of Texas, has prepared and is now having published at Nacogdoches, Texas, a brief, but complete, and accurate and charmingly written Memoir of his life, character and services. His record presents a life-long devotion to principle, rarely found in the history of any state. Doubtless there are many members of the press in Texas now who remember his kindly aid and encouraging words. Yielding at length to the burden of years he passed peacefully away, April 26., 1894, at his home in Marshall, Texas. For over forty years Col. Loughery was intimately and actively connected with the history and development of Texas and was an important factor in shaping its public policies and destiny. During the days of Houston, Rusk, Henderson, Van Zandt, and other leading spirits, he was editing one of the leading journals of our young and vigorous state, not as a follower but as a leader in all the great measures of statesmanship that have resulted in giving Texas her present proud position among the states of the American Union. In all the political battles fought during these forty years for the triumph of Democracy and good government, he was seen and heard in the front of the contest, dealing telling blows into the ranks of the opposition. It was mainly through his efforts

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that the Democratic organization was perfected and the first Democratic State Convention held in this state in 1855. Hundreds, perhaps thousand, recognized him as a leader worthy of all praise. Thinking it would be a pleasing remembrance of Col. Loughery to his brethern of the press and his many friends in Texas, Mrs. E. M. Loughery, has writ- the biographical sketch referred to. The book will be in neat pamphlet form. One dollar per copy, which will greatly aid her. Please respond promptly, those desireing a copy of the memoir are requested to send her one dollar in payment for same and it will be mailed to them.— Houston Post. Address,

MRS. E. M. LOUGHERY,

~~Nacogdoches, Texas.~~

Austin, Texas.

JUL 28 1975

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